

Year of Renewal Tuesday Evening Gathering
Participant Insights to Share with the SJF Community

At the Tuesday evening Year of Renewal Gathering **on October 6**, three of our faith family members shared their personal experience of God's presence in their lives. All three did an excellent job of sharing a part of their life story. After the presentations, all those present at the gathering were asked to provide an insight based on what was heard. Following is a summary of these insights:

- God impacts our lives always and everywhere-God is present in us. Insights can come when we least expect them and can be life changing.
- We cannot just believe; we must trust and follow God, sharing our love and talents by working for justice and helping others. It is making the lives of others better that truly matters.
- If we are willing to listen, God is found in many experiences and everyday events. We must follow where God leads.
- We find God in our relationship with others: In children, in loved ones, in friends, in strangers and in the poor. We can also find God in nature.
- God is present during the difficult times of our lives. These difficult times can bring each one of us closer to God if we are open to His presence.
- As individuals, we cannot find God alone. It is through relationships with family, parish members and others that help us find God. Deeper connections to others lead to a deeper experience of God.
- There is a need for God in the workplace. This can be expressed in how we treat others.
- Several personal stories of faith were expressed. Parishioners have found God among the poor, through a mother who provided love and laughter in spite of a difficult life, while recovering from cancer, while watching a family member recover from drug addiction and by staying Catholic when other family members left the faith.